



# News Release

ORANGE COUNTY/INLAND  
EMPIRE DISTRICT OFFICE

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## Debbie Molino to Receive 2019 SCORE Mentor of the Year Award

*Volunteering countless hours, Molino is an invaluable asset to the SCORE organization*

**SANTA ANA, Calif.** – The U.S. Small Business Administration, Orange County / Inland Empire District Office has selected Debbie Molino as the 2019 SCORE Mentor of the Year. A member for eight years, she has volunteered time to both new and experienced small business owners spanning clients throughout Orange County and beyond. Molino was nominated for the award by Orange County SCORE Chapter Chairperson Mike Edwards.

SCORE is a volunteer organization and is supported in part through the SBA. SCORE volunteers bring experience from a variety of fields. Molino's 30 years of sales and marketing experience in addition to business ownership uniquely positions her to help those starting or growing a business. She is exceptionally talented in the fashion and apparel industry where she advises small business owners on setting up a business plan; getting a product designed, manufactured and sold to retailers; tradeshow marketing; product distribution; and the training of sales associates. Molino is a strong advocate for all entrepreneurs but assisting women and minority business owners is her passion. Through her focused efforts she supports SCORE's diversity and inclusion initiatives and SBA's 8(a) Business Development program.

Molino maintained a very high customer experience measurement while mentoring 68 clients in 86 sessions for 2018; and was instrumental in helping new businesses get started and create jobs. She is active in conducting workshops and helps plan business training series. Initiating the chapter's social media program, she has helped increase awareness of SCORE's services with the added benefit of attracting new clients. Molino implemented videos to augment SCORE's message, co-chaired the quarterly Women in Business Breakfast Series, has been the motivating force of the annual Women in Business Conference, assisted other chapters in setting up women business conferences, and has moderated SCORE's CEO forums. Having been involved in so many aspects of the Orange County SCORE chapter it is no wonder she received four SCORE awards in the past six years.

Molino has a history of volunteering her time and expertise. Prior to joining the SCORE organization, she served as president of a school site council monitoring 20 middle schools and high schools. She is a small business champion who volunteers countless hours to SCORE related activities and is an invaluable asset to the SCORE organization.

Debbie Molino will be recognized and receive her award as the 2019 SCORE Mentor of the Year at the local Small Business Week Awards program to be held Friday, June 7 from 10:30 a.m. until approximately 2 p.m. at the Disneyland Hotel Grand Ballroom. For more information on the event, email [events@ochcc.com](mailto:events@ochcc.com) or call (949) 891-1464.

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### **About the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA)**

The U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) was created in 1953 and is a Cabinet-level agency of the federal government to aid, counsel, assist and protect the interests of small business concerns, to preserve free competitive enterprise and to maintain and strengthen the overall economy of our nation. The SBA helps Americans start, build and grow businesses, and recover from disasters. Through an extensive network of field offices and partnerships with public and private organizations, the SBA delivers its services to people throughout the United States, Puerto Rico, the U.S. Virgin Islands and Guam. To learn more about SBA, visit [www.sba.gov](http://www.sba.gov).

### **About the Orange County / Inland Empire District Office**

The Orange County / Inland Empire District Office, under the leadership and vision of J. Adalberto Quijada, District Director, is responsible for the delivery of SBA programs and services in the Southern California counties of Orange, Riverside, and San Bernardino. Located in Santa Ana near John Wayne Airport, the office and its staff facilitate understanding and access to SBA loan programs; coordinate and conduct hundreds of training sessions and special events annually such as matchmaking forums and loan workshops; and manage a portfolio of nearly 100 businesses enrolled in the agency's 8(a) business development program.